

gatherings and were not liable to debase a community. But now our rich and idle and highly fed youth must have something more exciting. Cards and billiards are becoming tame. The theater must have on its stage Sullivans, Corbetts and Mitchels to spar. Even this is too slow. They must spend some of rich "dads" money, in seeing blood spilled by pugilists.

2. The cure. No nation is safe when many of its citizens are idle—either from choice or necessity. We are exposed to both dangers. This is as true of the individual as of the nation. So long as our youth are taught that money relieves them from the obligations to honorable labor we are not safe. The hope of the salvation of our sons and daughters is a new set of fathers and mothers, and new ideas about work and wealth. Idleness is as bad for the rich son as for the poor.

3. An enthusiasm for human activity is natural and spontaneous. And if our energies are not put out in useful, they will go out in destructive work. Work that will destroy the individual and the community. Youth is naturally active and enthusiastic. If your son is not able to perform manual labor, or is not necessitated to it turn him to intellectual and moral pursuits. Give him an enthusiasm for humanity. Teach him that the curse of nature and of nature's God rests upon the indulgence and idleness of youth. He that sows the wind must reap the whirl-wind. Young man and young woman, your mission is to perfect yourself and perfect society. Life is given you for this purpose: and if it be used for any other—as pleasure or sin, it will be lost, forever lost. What will you give in exchange for it? Christ is the perfect man and the head of the perfect society. Will you now enlist under his banner and begin to redeem the time—begin to save your life? Every day you delay is lost, not only the day is lost, but you are losing energy and making your chances less, and less possible. Why delay longer?

Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your conceits.

## Sisters' Department.

### PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

Among the many influences brought to bear in the development of the mind of the child, and continued through youth into early man and womanhood, perhaps none are more enduring than those thrown around it in the family circle. It is there the first thought is kindled. It is there the ever observant eye of the child first sees the relations that one member of the family sustains to another, and shapes his thoughts from the words and actions of the father, the mother, the brother, the sister toward one another.

If their words are kindly, if no debasing thought finds utterance in the family intercourse, if no harsh word is spoken, but each addresses the other in kind and gentle words; if sincerity is felt in the atmosphere that surrounds the expanding intellect; if purity in all things, temperance in all things, considerate care for all things that may come under the care of the child is taught by the word and example of those who have assumed the great responsibilities of parenthood; if to these, and first of all among these, the lesson that has been taught to us these many years by the sages and good men of the past and enforced in the simple, yet how expressive, words by Jesus of Nazareth that "whatsoever ye would that others should do to you, do you even so to them." If these words and these examples have been brought before them, how much more to be desired are such conditions in and under which the child grows toward adult years, than those where the man or woman who lives a truthful life is regarded either as hypocritical, fool, or not worth considering as worthy the name of hypocrite.

How few as compared to the great whole receive this educative treatment that reaches into every recess of the mind, and so becomes a portion of the entire being, and yet who will not to their inner consciousness say that this is what I would have my child develop into as its years shall flit by between the cradle and its entrance into the active duties of life. But such homes ex-

ist not alone in fancy, but at rare intervals can be found in real existence.

Would that all were such. But we find the direct opposite. Instead of kind, gentle actions, sympathizing thoughts expressed in every glance of the eye and gesture: instead of the inviolate sanctity of the person under any and all circumstances: instead of virtuous conduct to be shown toward each and all; instead of honesty being the guiding star in all relations, how often do we find truth set at naught, kindly words only calculated upon as they may hold out the prospect of some personal gain; gentleness of deportment regarded only as a cringing slave supplicating the forbearance of superior strength and brutality; an active benevolence that waits no asking to give necessary aid to the suffering as the work of an idiot that is seeking cheap yet costly notoriety at the hands of those who don't look at all to their own interests, and maintaining soul and body pure and free from the contaminating touch of the libertine's polluted hand, polluting as it does with a moral leprosy all who come within its deadly grasp, that the one choice gem, if one is more precious than another, a regard for ones self that shall know no limits to forbearance until all the respect that every one owes to himself, and his kind is broken down and thrown to the rude blast, until a moral and physical wreck is all that remains of what was once a great promise of individual usefulness.

How much of all this can come from home surrounding? What reasonable hope is there that the individual shall reach the full stature of manhood, where the opposite of all the virtues, the amenities of life even, are set at naught, and held only as fit for the sneering word, and the practice of the good who may perhaps not be among the strong of will and intellect.

What can we expect where the idea of getting the best end of the bargain is a ruling principle of action no matter by what means obtained. And then home influences are too often supplanted by the lessons taught in the street. Listen for a moment to the utterances of boys, even young boys, and do we too often hear why language that best befits the brothel or the low-